INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Additional Information On Used Oil

Office of Land Quality

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Used Oil Management

If you store your used oil in a tank, the tank must meet the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, Division of Fire and Building Safety's requirements for Class I liquids (even though used oil is a Class III(b) liquid). Note that the Indiana Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission defines a tank as anything that holds more than 60 gallons.

Generators of used oil are required to:
- Clean up spills promptly.
- Keep oil storage containers and above ground tanks in good condition. Drums and storage tanks used to store oil cannot be rusting or leaking.
- Label all used oil storage tanks and piping or containers with the words "Used Oil."
- Do not mix used oil with hazardous wastes. Oil that is intentionally or accidentally mixed with a hazardous material must be managed as a hazardous waste.
- Determine the halogen content of the used oil by using generator knowledge or by using a test kit for halogens (available from safety supply dealers). If the used oil contains more than 1,000 parts per million (ppm) total halogens, it is presumed to have been mixed with a hazardous waste and must be treated as a hazardous waste unless you can demonstrate that the source of the halogens was not from mixing a hazardous waste with your used oil.
- For off-site shipments, you must ensure that the transporter has a U.S. EPA ID number.
- You may transport less than 55 gallons of your own used oil (or oil that has been collected through a household do-it-yourself collection program) at any time to a used oil collection center or to your own aggregation point without a U.S. EPA ID number. An aggregation point is a collection center designed to accept small amounts of used oil and store it until enough is collected to ship it elsewhere for recycling.

Suggested best management practices
- Instruct employees to clean hands and arms frequently if they are exposed to used oil and/or grease to prevent skin irritation. Employees must not use gasoline to cleanse themselves or for other cleaning purposes.
- Instruct employees to change oil-soaked clothing, as it is a fire safety hazard in addition to being a source of skin problems.
- Use secondary containment and keep used oil tanks and containers under cover.
- Maintain absorbent materials in used oil storage areas.
- Train employees on emergency spill procedures.

Recycling or Burning Used Oil for Energy Recovery

Under the Used Oil Rule, both re-refining and burning of used oil for energy recovery are considered to be forms of recycling. Re-refining is the preferred method of managing used oil because it preserves our limited resources. However, in some instances, such as when you are disposing of settled solids from the bottom of your used oil tank, or disposing

of petroleum contaminated wipes, sorbents, or spill materials, burning the material for energy recovery is the better management option. If you choose to burn your used oil in your own used oil furnace, be aware that there are additional rules that you must follow under the Used Oil Rule. Because small oil-burning furnaces are not as clean-burning or as efficient as industrial furnaces, IDEM recommends that you send your used oil to a fuel blender rather than burning it on-site.

Some requirements for burning used oil include

- Have a used oil burner with a maximum capacity of not more than 500,000 Btu/hr.
- Install the used oil burner in the garage area (not the business's office) and in accordance with the regulations of IDHS's Indiana Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission.
- Vent the heater's combustion gases outside of the building. Note that the used oil burner cannot be connected to the heating duct work.
- Burn only used oil that the business generates or used oil received from households that bring their used oil to your business.